

**Amendments to the Specification:**

- Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 24, with the following redlined paragraph:

The disclosed embodiments of ~~to~~ the present invention provide a method of ~~forming an executable program from linking a~~ plurality of object code modules to form an executable program, each object code module including section data, a set of relocation instructions and one or more symbols, each symbol having a plurality of attributes associated therewith, wherein ~~said the~~ relocation instructions ~~includes~~ include a data retrieval instruction having a symbol field identifying a symbol and an attribute field identifying a symbol attribute associated with ~~said the~~ identified symbol to be retrieved, the method including: reading at least one relocation instruction from ~~said the~~ set of ~~relocations~~ relocation instructions and where ~~said the~~ relocation instruction is a data retrieval instruction, determining the symbol identified by the symbol field and retrieving one of ~~said the~~ plurality of symbol attributes associated with ~~said the~~ symbol in dependence on the contents of the symbol attributes field of ~~said the~~ instruction.

- Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 10, with the following redlined paragraph:

There is also provided a method of ~~forming an executable program from linking a~~ plurality of object code modules to form an executable program, each object code module including section data, a set of relocation instructions and one or more symbols, each symbol having a plurality of symbol attributes associated therewith, ~~said the~~ symbol attributes including ~~said the~~ symbol value, wherein ~~said the~~ relocation instructions include a data retrieval instruction having a symbol field identifying one of ~~said the~~ symbols and an attribute field identifying one of ~~said the~~ plurality of symbol attributes associated with ~~said the~~ identified symbol to be retrieved, the method including: reading at least one relocation instruction from ~~said the~~ set of relocations; recording a pass value indicative of the number of times ~~said the~~ set of relocation instructions have been read; where ~~said the~~ relocation instruction is a data retrieval instruction, identifying

the symbol identified by ~~said the~~ symbol field, determining if ~~said the~~ associated symbol value has been retrieved by a further data retrieval instruction during the current or previous repetition of ~~said the~~ set of relocation instructions, and responsive to ~~said the~~ determination, placing a predetermined value in a store.

- Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 23, with the following redlined paragraph:

There is additionally provided a computer program product for ~~forming an executable program from linking~~ a plurality of object code modules to form an executable program, ~~said the~~ computer program product including program code having section data, a set of relocation instructions and one or more symbols, each symbol having a plurality of attributes ~~associates associated~~ therewith, wherein ~~said the~~ relocation instructions ~~includes include~~ a data retrieval instruction having a symbol field identifying a symbol and an attribute field identifying a symbol attribute associated with ~~said the~~ identified symbol to be retrieved, ~~said the~~ program code arranged so that, when run on a computer, the steps of the method defined herein are performed.

- Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 3, with the following redlined paragraph:

There is further provided a computer program product for ~~forming an executable program from linking~~ a plurality of object code modules to form an executable program, ~~said the~~ computer program product including program code having section data, a set of relocation instructions and one or more symbols, each symbol having a plurality of symbol attributes associated therewith, ~~said the~~ symbol attributes including ~~said the~~ symbol value, wherein ~~said the~~ relocation instructions ~~includes include~~ a data retrieval instruction having a symbol field identifying one of ~~said the~~ symbols and an attribute field identifying one of ~~said the~~ plurality of symbol attributes ~~associates associated~~ with ~~said the~~ identified symbol to be retrieved, ~~said the~~

program code arranged so that, when run on a computer, the steps of the method defined herein are performed.

- Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 3, with the following redlined paragraph:

Each assembler generates an object code module that includes sets of section data, each set of section data having a set of relocations generated by the assembler to describe how the section data is to be patched so as to render it compatible with other section data to form the program 5. These relocations are generated by the assembler. ~~Section~~The section data ~~comprises~~includes a plurality of code sequences executable in the final program; and data values to be accessed by the executing program.

- Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 15, with the following redlined paragraph:

If it transpires that ~~during~~during linking a symbol is not accessed by a R\_ATTRIB symbol value instruction, the value of the SF\_PASS symbol field will remain at zero. Because of this such symbols will evaluate R\_ATTRIB\_symbol referenced as zero in subsequent passes. Consequently the user can instruct the linker to remove the section data that the symbol labels by using a conditional R\_IF instruction as follows: